"Balance of Plant" presumption of approval policy for safeguarded Indian facilities to include all non-NSG items. General Indian industry would benefit from more liberal and predictable U.S. policy on dual use technology export control.

Closing down of Visa Office by Singapore

1493. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Singapore Government has decided to close its Visa Office in Kolkata; and

(b) If so, whether Government would take up the matter with Singapore Government to stop such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Government ascertained that the Visa Office was opened in 1987 on a temporary basis and closed in 2004. Upon enquiry; Singapore has conveyed that should the need for a permanent visa processing office in Kolkata arise in future, Singapore would certainly give it due consideration. Opening or closing of the Visa Office is the sovererign decision of Singapore.

Chinese help to defuse Indo-Pak tension

1494. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China had helped India to defuse Indo-Pak tension two years back as appeared in media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's policy of defusing the tension between India and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Media reports referred to in this question are speculative and inaccurate. India's relations with Pakistan stand on their own and do not brook any third-party intervention.

(c) Government remains committed to establishment of peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan. Continuous efforts have been made